

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method for treating an infectious disease comprising topically applying to the infected body area of a patient suffering from said disease an ointment comprising from 0.1 to 10% by weight, expressed as free anhydride on the basis of the entire ointment of the penem antibiotic (+)-(5R, 6S)-6-[(R)-1-hydroxyethyl]-7-oxo-3-[(R)-2-tetrahydrofuryl]-4-thia-1-azabicyclo[3.2.0]hepto-2-ene-2-carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in a non-aqueous hydrophobic base.

12.-14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the infectious disease is selected from the group consisting of infectious diseases of dermatological, ophthalmogotic, otolaryngologic, dental/oral surgical and urogenital fields.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the ointment further comprises one or more additives selected from gelatinizers, thickening agents, viscosifier, viscosity enhancers and elasticizers incorporated in the base.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the ointment further comprises one or more of water-soluble or hydrophilic polymer compounds incorporated in the base.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the water-soluble or hydrophilic polymer compound is one or more members selected from the group consisting of carmellose, carmellose sodium, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyacrylic acid,

sodium polyacrylate, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxyethylmethylcellulose, xanthan gum, tragacanth gum, guar gum, locust bean gum, arabic gum, chitosan, sodium alginate, starches, gelatins, hydrophobic hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, which is incorporated at 0.1 to 10% by weight on the basis of the ointment.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the infectious disease is a dermatological disease.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 11 wherein the infectious disease is a periodontal disease.

21.-25. (Canceled).